

INTERCOLLEGIATE FOOTBALL RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION™

# The College Football Historian™

*Reliving College Football History Today!*

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## And the Winner is?

By Richard Topp

As researchers pour through documents—online and offline—they run across many things that have appeared in books that were written on the history of college football.

And then, they search continues, many times the rare and unusual is located.

And sometimes, it's not just stories and news that has been uncovered.

**IFRA** member Richard Topp, out of Niles, Illinois, has turned the search for scores from an event; into a passion.

Years of research has led him to uncovered scores and games that even the schools didn't even know they had played. But through diligent search of old newspapers, Topp has even discovered games were the school had one opponent and date—and his findings come-up with a totally different set of data.

Among the many unusual findings he has uncovered was when both schools claim a victory—and by a different score!!

Among his most recent findings came in 1892, Nov. 19, to be exact. The University of Michigan hosted Oberlin College, who was coached by first-year mentor John W. Heisman. The coach, for whom the trophy is duly-named, finished his rookie campaign 7-0-0...or did he?

Both teams claimed a win. The home team rallied and claimed a 26-24 victory; while the visitors from the Buckeye state have a 24-22 triumph in its records.

### ***Who's right?***

During college football's very formative falls, rules were nothing like what the game is played under in 2009.

One such guideline was the pre-game agreement of officials; often it was a coach from each team or

players who would not participate in the contest.

Also, a “set time of play” was part of the pre-game ritual—simpler to baseball’s ground rules today.

This contest placed the full authority in the referee; he decided the length of the playing periods; the number of players that would be permitted to play at one time. Oberlin’s representative was a member of the team by the name of Mr. Ensworth; as he would serve as referee; with the Michigan choice, whose name has been lost to history, would be the time keeper.

The officials decided the contest would end at 4:30 p.m., to enable the visitors from Ohio to catch the train back home.

The score in the first half was 22 to 18 in favor of Ann Arbor. But Heisman wanted to win—and agreed to play another 20 minutes.

In the second half the visitors made a touchdown and kicked a goal and kept their opponents from scoring, the game thus ending 24 to 22 in their favor.

From the **Michigan Daily**:  
The timekeeper (a member of the Michigan team) confirmed that there were, indeed, 4 minutes to play when Oberlin left the field.

Before the men could line up again referee Ensworth (the Oberlin player) called time and Oberlin ran

off the field so quickly that it almost seemed pre-arranged.

Oberlin left the field before time was up; agreeing to play until 4:50 and it left at 4:46.

Oberlin defeated the Wolverines; or did they?

This is where the controversy begins.

Michigan claims Oberlin quit the grounds before time expired, the score standing 24 to 22 in their favor. Both teams claim the game and the umpire (the time keeper) decided all bets off. During the game “Doc” Pearson, University of Michigan, was ruled off, and in turn slugged the referee, the Oberlin man.

After Oberlin went ahead 24-22, the referee announced that time had run out.

But wait!

The Michigan team lined up, scored a touchdown, and claimed victory. (No Oberlin team on field).

Here are the facts:

(1) Michigan scored with NO OPPOSITION, not a football move, the rule says the game shall be between two sides of eleven men each.

(2) The referee, agreed upon by both clubs, called the game with 4 minutes left. He could

(3) have called the game at any time after the kick-off.

(4) The referee was attacked by a Michigan player; the referee could have awarded the game to Oberlin by forfeit.

The timekeeper is to “advise” the referee, the referee is the sole arbiter.

*Your have read the facts surrounding the game; now, readers of TCFH it's time to vote:*

**Did Michigan win? or Did Oberlin win?**

Cast your ballots and email your choices and comments to Tex Noel

([statwhiz@hotmail.com](mailto:statwhiz@hotmail.com)); deadline is Dec. 11, 2009.

\* \* \*

## **50 years of football Kimbrough Memorial Stadium**

By BRAD RABURN  
*Canyon News Staff*

The West Texas A&M Football Stadium is celebrating its 50th anniversary Saturday.

Originally known as the Buffalo Bowl, it was the vision of legendary football coach and athletic director Frank Kimbrough.

Kimbrough saw his dream materialize between the 1958-1959 football seasons and the first home game on Sept. 26, 1959, against the University of Arizona.

Local resident Jim Christopher personally stood with Kimbrough as he explained his original vision, and

even helped pour the concrete for the stadium itself.

“In 1957, Frank Kimbrough stood near where the white buffalo is today and said I want to build a football stadium right here,” Christopher said. “1958, (Neil Singleton Construction Company) dug out dirt, arranged dirt and moved in fine river sand for the bottom surface of the field. I helped pour all the concrete - a crane would pour from the top and work to the bottom.”

Christopher went on to share that the concrete was purchased and delivered for \$13.56 per cubic yard. However the final price-tag of \$700,000 had many other “extras” included, such as; “chair-back seats, electrical outlets in the stands and wide cross-overs that will eliminate long climbs to any part of the stadium and speed up traffic in

the stands,” as reported by *The Canyon News* in 1959.

“This is a facility that will seat 20,000 people and is designed for the north and south to become more seating as well as adding an upper-level tier for seating up to 40,000 people,” Christopher said. “It was a great dream of Frank Kimbrough.” Renamed the Frank Kimbrough Memorial Stadium in 1971 to honor its visionary, the stadium has changed very little in the past 50 years, with the most recent improvements coming from the addition of the current reserved seating areas, the improvement of the score board and the replacement of the original Bermuda grass with a synthetic grass surface.

“[The stadium] is a showpiece that adds to the recruiting efforts,” Christopher said. “It has a great impact on the dollars of Canyon.”

Standing as a landmark at the northern gateway to the City of Canyon, the roots seem to be tracing themselves back to that original season under Head Coach Clark Jarnagin.

In 1959, Jarnagin admitted in an interview with *The Canyon News* that he had “some good boys, but lacked player depth;” an eerie connection to the 2009 team under Head Coach Don Carthel.

**TCFH’s Editor’s Note:** Brad Radburn and Mike Higgins are both

new subscribers and the latter has been a part of the WTA&MU scene for some time and he has offered this view of former opposing players that have participated in game played in *Kimbrough Memorial Stadium*.

In his Sept. edition of **SHORT RUTTS**, Higgins writes: Saturday (Sept. 26) marks the 50th anniversary of WT opening then-named Buffalo Bowl as coach **CLARK JARNIGAN**'s Buffs dropped a 7-6 game to University of Arizona on September 26, 1959. Who have been the more notable opposing players and coaches to go up against the Buffaloes at the venue?

Some personal choices:

Head coaches: **WARREN WOODSON** of New Mexico State, **DOYT PERRY** of Bowling Green, **DON CORYELL** of San Diego State, **FRANK KUSH** of Arizona State, **HAYDEN FRY** of North Texas, **BILLY MURPHY** of Memphis State, **JOHN COOPER** of Tulsa, **VINCE GIBSON** of Louisville and **JIM WACKER** of Southwest Texas State; Assistant and future head coaches: **BUDDY RYAN** of Pacific, **DON NEHLEN** of Bowling Green, **BILL SNYDER** of North Texas and **PHILLIP FULMER** of Wichita State; Players that became head coaches: Wichita State linebacker **BILL PARCELLS**, Montana State quarterback **DENNIS ERICKSON** and Southern Mississippi quarterback **JEFF BOWER**; Best defensive players: linemen **CURLY CULP** of Arizona State, **JOE GREENE** of North Texas, **AL BAKER** of Colorado State and

**JOHN RANDLE** of Texas A&I; Best offensive players: wide receiver **CARROLL DALE** of Virginia Tech, Utah State running backs **MacARTHUR LANE** and **ALTIE TAYLOR**, Colorado State running back **OSCAR REED**, running backs **PREACHER PILOT** and **PO JAMES** and quarterback **CHARLEY JOHNSON** of New Mexico State, quarterback **DENNIS SHAW** and wide receiver **HAVEN MOSES** of San Diego State, Tulsa receiver **DREW PEARSON**, University of Tampa quarterback **FREDDIE SOLOMAN**, quarterback **STEPHEN STARRING** and running back **BUFORD JORDAN** of McNeese State, Troy State quarterback **MIKE TURK**, Texas A&I running backs **JOHNNY BAILEY** and **HEATH SHERMAN** plus linemen **PHIL OLSEN** of Utah State and **PIERCE HOLT** of Angelo State; Best punter: **RAY GUY**, Southern Mississippi; Best placekicker: **SKIPPER BUTLER**, Texas-Arlington; Best future actor: **CARL "APOLLO CREED" WEATHERS**, San Diego State linebacker; Best future professional baseball player: **REGGIE JACKSON**, Arizona State defensive back; Best future pro football television color commentator: **BEASLEY REESE**, North Texas defensive back; Best future Congressman: **STEVE LARGENT**, Tulsa wide receiver; Best future professional wrestler: **STEVE "STONE COLD" AUSTIN**, North Texas defensive lineman; Best future talk show host: **"DR. PHIL" MCGRAW**, Tulsa tight end.

## **Epilogue: McGill and the Birth of Football**

*Edward Percy, BSc'49, MDCM'51, MSc'54, DipSurg'57, and Hugh Brodie, BSc'49, MDCM'51, were physicians for McGill's Department of Athletics in the '50s, '60s and '70s.*

*Together they wrote this short history of intercollegiate football, illuminating McGill's role in the evolution of the game, which appeared in a 1982 edition of the News.*

*Used by permission of the Mc Gill News (ALUMNI QUARTERLY)*

Having allegedly evolved during the Danish occupation of England when belligerent Anglo-Saxons kicked Viking skulls from village to village, football of an only slightly less bellicose sort was imported to the New World by 17th- and 18th-century colonists. In 1840, a reporter wrote of a Yale University game: "If the truth were told, the game would make the same impression on the public mind as a bullfight. Boys and young men knocked each other down and tore off each others' clothing. Eyes were bunged, faces blackened, much blood was spilt and shirts and coats were torn to rags."

By 1860 the game was abolished in many American schools, but in 1862 Gerritt Smith Hiller organized a group at Yale to play again, using rules that were a reasonably close

imitation of soccer. Still, the game was often more an excuse to beat up freshmen than anything else.

In 1871 Harvard University started to play a variation known as the "Boston Game." This allowed a player to pick up the ball and run with it if he were chased, varying from the game that had been prohibited in 1840.

In the fall of 1873 Yale invited Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and Rutgers to a convention in New York to draw up a set of rules for an intercollegiate football association.

Harvard shunned the meeting because the proposed association would not consider the rules of the Boston Game. It nevertheless challenged Yale to a game in 1874.

Yale, however, played a game resembling soccer and thus declined because of the different rules.

Harvard captain Henry Grant was anxious for his football team to engage in competition and had heard that a similar game was played at McGill University.

Consequently, he contacted the captain of the McGill team, David Roger, and invited them to play two games in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on May 13 and 14, 1874. These were to be the first real football games.

Until this time, Harvard had been playing a game that today would be

considered very similar to what we call soccer football. McGill arrived in Cambridge several days prior to the game and practised each day. The Harvard team was surprised when the McGill players kicked the ball and subsequently ran with it under their arms. The Harvard captain pointed out politely that this violated a basic rule of American football. The McGill captain replied that it did not violate any rule of the Canadian game. When asked "What game do you play?" Roger replied, "Rugby." They then managed to agree to play the forthcoming games with half-Canadian, half-American rules.

The following day a notice appeared in the Harvard University paper: "The McGill University Football Club will meet the Harvard Football Club on Wednesday and Thursday, May 13th and 14th. The game probably will be called at 3 o'clock.

Admittance 50 cents. The proceeds will be donated to the entertainment of our visitors from Montreal."

Early in the first half, the Harvard team so enjoyed running with the ball that they agreed to play the remainder of the game with Canadian rules, which stipulated that the ball could be picked up and carried. Harvard normally played with 15 players, but McGill could only field 11 athletes (the number fielded in the present game of American football). The first game was won by Harvard 3 to 0 and the game played on the following day ended in a scoreless tie. Harvard liked the McGill game so much that

it adopted the downs as well as field goals. These rule changes, which included tackling, led inevitably to the physical contact of our present-day collision sport. In the fall of 1875, Harvard challenged Yale to a match and suggested the use of a set of rules combining soccer and rugby, such as Harvard had learned from its Canadian rival the previous year.

The game was eventually played under a combination of both soccer and rugby rules, but Yale apparently won the concession of using a round, rather than oval, football. Harvard's triumph over Yale at this so-called "concessionary game" was witnessed by a sis-boom-bah cheering crowd of 2,000

\* \* \*

*Mel Smith asks the question:*

Why does Harvard begin counting their foot-ball games with their Alumni in 1886/87? When there are references to at least ten (possibly fourteen) games, played with the 'Graduates' between 1873/74 and 1882/83. I have not been able to get Harvard to answer this one.

\* \* \*

*Used by permission*

**How many national titles can Alabama really lay claim to? Better yet, why**

spectators bedecked in coloured shirts, stockings and knee breeches.

Harvard went on to play McGill again in Cambridge and in Montreal in 1876, '77, '79 and '82. Winning all the games, they retreated south of the border for some time. Then, on October 19, 1974, McGill made its comeback. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the historic McGill-Harvard "American" football game, the McGill rugby team (which most closely resembles the team that participated in the original matches) challenged Harvard, beating them 6 to 3. This centennial game led to an annual return match between the Harvard and McGill rugby teams in a spirit that is reminiscent of those first college games.

**is there more than one answer?**

**By Matt Hooper  
Birmingham Weekly**

Is it 17, 12, 7 or none?

The question of how many national championships the University of Alabama football team has won over its 117-year history, as cut-and-dry as it may seem, has baffled fans and experts alike for generations. The debate has undoubtedly sparked innumerable bar fights and other domestic disturbances over the past several decades.

Before I attempt an answer – and I must say that now I'm sailing into dangerous waters with this column

– we must examine why such a simple query is turning up so many different results.

First, realize that the NCAA is a voluntary organization that oversees and regulates collegiate athletics at nearly every college and university in the nation. For all the minutiae that the organization handles day-to-day, one thing the NCAA does not do is crown its own Division 1-A football champions – in other words, there’s no NCAA-sponsored postseason tournament or playoff. Instead, they allow independent bodies to carry out that task.

Second, those independent bodies – recognized by the NCAA as “major selectors” – choose their champion at the end of a season based either on poll data, mathematical formulas or other research results. Currently, there are 17 such selectors:

*Anderson & Hester, Associated Press, Berryman, Billingsley Report, Congrove Computer Rankings, Colley Matrix, Dunkel System, Football Writers Association of America, Massey College Football Ratings, Matthews Grid Ratings, National Football Foundation, Rothman, Sagarin Ratings, Sporting News, USA Today, Wolfe and, of course, the Bowl Championship Series.*

In the past, 22 additional selectors have chosen champions dating back to 1869 but, for some reason or another, are not currently in operation:

*Alderson System, Boand System, Casper Whitney, College Football Researchers Association, DeVold System, Dickinson System, Eck Ratings System, Football News, Helms Athletic Foundation, Houlgate System, International News Service, Litkenhous, National Championship Foundation, New York Times, Parke Davis, Poling System, United Press International, UPI/National Football Foundation, USA Today/CNN, USA Today/ESPN, USA Today/National Football Foundation and Williamson System.*

This means that at any given time, anywhere from 10 to 15 or more entities were crowning champions each year. As a consequence, it was rare for all of the selectors to unanimously choose a champion in a particular year. How rare? From 1900 through 2006, only 14 teams won unanimous titles.

To make matters even more confusing, some of the selectors awarded their national championship to teams prior to the postseason bowl games. Others, such as Parke Davis, awarded national championships retroactively in 1933 to teams that played between 1869 and 1932, based on historical research.

So, with that in mind, let’s comb the NCAA archives to determine how many times selectors have chosen Alabama as a national champion (Note: some of the selectors listed by the official NCAA records (below) are not “major selectors”. We’ll sort that out later):



**1992: AP, Berryman, Billingsley, DeVold, Dunkel, Eck, FACT, FB News, Football Research, FW, Matthews, National Championship Foundation, NY Times, Sporting News, UPI/NFF, USA/CNN** (Note: Florida St. was crowned by one selector)

**1979: AP, Berryman, Billingsley, DeVold, Dunkel, FACT, FB News, FW, Helms, Matthews, National Championship Foundation, NFF, NY Times, Poling, Sagarin, Sporting News, UPI** (Note: USC was crowned by one selector)

**1978: AP, FACT, Football Research, FW, Helms, National Championship Foundation, NFF** (Note: Oklahoma was crowned by nine selectors, USC by seven)

**1977: Football Research** (Note: Arkansas was crowned by one selector, Notre Dame by 16 and Texas by two)

**1975: Matthews** (Note: Arizona State was crowned by two selectors, Ohio State by five and Oklahoma by 13)

**1973: Berryman, UPI** (Note: Michigan was chosen by two selectors, Notre Dame by six, Ohio State by three and Oklahoma by five)

**1966: Berryman** (Note: Michigan State was chosen by four selectors, Notre Dame by 14)

**1965: AP, Billingsley, Football**

**Research, FW, National Championship Foundation** (Note: Michigan State was crowned by 11 selectors)

**1964: AP, Berryman, Litkenhous, UPI** (Note: Arkansas was chosen by six selectors, Michigan by one)

**1962: Billingsley** (Note: LSU and Mississippi were chosen by one selector each, USC by 14)

**1961: AP, Berryman, Billingsley, DeVold, Dunkel, FB News, Football Research, Helms, Litkenhous, National Championship Foundation, NFF, Sagarin, UPI, Williamson** (Note: Ohio State was chosen by two selectors)

**1945: National Championship Foundation** (Note: Army was crowned by 14 selectors)

**1941: Houlgate** (Note: Minnesota was chosen by 10 selectors, Texas by two)

**1934: Dunkel, Houlgate, Poling, Williamson** (Note: Minnesota was chosen by seven selectors)

**1930: Football Research, Parke Davis** (Note: Notre Dame was chosen by nine selectors)

**1926: Billingsley, Football Research, Helms, National Championship Foundation, Poling** (Note: Lafayette was chosen by one selector, Navy by two and Stanford by three)

**1925: Billingsley, Boand, Football Research, Helms, Houlgate, National Championship Foundation, Poling** (Note: Dartmouth was chosen by two selectors)

That makes 17 national championships officially credited to Alabama by NCAA-approved selectors. Most hardcore Alabama fans will stop reading right here.

Should you wish to begin eliminating titles, start with the 1977 crown awarded by Football Research, which is not recognized as a “major selector.” The 1977 Tide finished the season 11-1 with an SEC title, but Notre Dame (who also finished 11-1) beat the No. 1 ranked team in the nation (Texas) in the Cotton Bowl.

So now, Alabama has 16 factually legitimate national championships from major selectors. But we can still whittle the total down.

Be it known that the University of Alabama itself only recognizes 12 official national championships: 1925, 1926, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1973, 1978, 1979 and 1992.

That leaves out the 1966 team (which finished 11-0 and was selected by Berryman), the 1945 team (10-0 and co-selected with Army by National Championship Foundation), the 1962 team (10-1 and selected by Billingsley), the 1975 team (11-1 and co-selected

with Ohio State by Matthews) and the aforementioned 1977 team.

Of the “Other Five”, as the University refers to them, only the 1966 team is seriously considered a top contender to be the Tide’s 13th national champion.

Of course, the 12 official championships are not without controversy, either. The 1978 team finished in a three-way tie at 11-1 with USC and Oklahoma. Somehow, all three teams won their bowl games, but none of the bowls pitted any of the three teams against each other.

The 1973 Tide lost to Notre Dame in the Sugar Bowl, yet somehow ended up splitting the title with the Irish anyway.

The 1965 team finished the season with a 9-1-1 record, capturing many selectors by default after No. 1 Michigan State, No. 2 Arkansas and No. 3 Nebraska all lost in postseason action. Alabama, ranked No. 4 at the time, upset Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

The 1964 team claimed four selectors after posting a 10-1-0 record. However, Arkansas was also crowned by four major selectors and finished the year undefeated. The Tide lost to Texas in their bowl game that season after many of the selectors had awarded their trophies prior to postseason play.

And in 1941 Alabama finished 9-2 under Frank Thomas, but somehow

claimed a major selector's title despite Minnesota's 8-0 final record.

If those five iffy national championships are taken away from the bottom line, that leaves Alabama with seven titles. Seven is the number recognized by many major national media outlets, including ESPN.

Of course, there are a few radicals out there who claim that the NCAA system is so fraught with inaccuracy and inconsistency that none of the championships, especially those awarded prior to the BCS era in 1998, can be considered legitimate. That would leave Alabama, one of the most historically significant sports programs in our nation's history, without a national championship to its credit.

Now, I won't go so far as to stand behind that theory. But this idea of the NCAA acting as a failed state is intriguing when answering a question as loaded as "How many titles does Alabama legitimately hold?"

Fans scoff at the idea of Bama's 17 national championships, arguing that many of them were awarded arbitrarily. Modern-day fans laugh aloud when told that lowly Princeton, not Alabama or Notre Dame, actually holds the record for most football national championships (28 from major selectors). But if we hold the old way of doing things in such low regard – non-NCAA entities arbitrarily

awarding championships to teams based on factors that have little to do with what happens on the field of play – what are we to make of the current BCS system?

In 50 years, will we look back and wonder why that Boise State team in 2006 wasn't awarded a national championship? What about Utah in 2008? What about Auburn in 2004? Are we not still using archaic and arbitrary means to decide our major college football champions?

So to answer the question: Alabama has 17 national championships. Princeton has 28. Auburn has four. As long this sport is governed by a subjective championship system, its fans have a right to be equally subjective.

\* \* \*

*In Honor of...* (Into a respective school's hall of fame)--Running back **Greg Hill**, Texas A&M Letterman's Association Hall of Fame...quarterback **James Brown**, University of Texas Men's Athletics Hall of Honor... defensive end **Alex Dees** and defensive back **Jerome Wood**, University of Memphis M Club Hall of Fame Class...**Alan Graf Jr.... Dick Enberg, Barry Frank, Chuck Howard and Keith Jackson**, Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame Class. Former assistant coach **Jim Carmody**, linebacker **Marchant Kenny**, kicker and end **Louis D. Megehee** and quarterback **Lee Roberts**, Southern Mississippi M-Club Hall of Fame...**Donald MacPherson** will receive Syracuse's George Arents Award, the

university's highest honor....**James Haralson**, quarterback **Cade McNown** and wide receiver **J.J. Stokes**, UCLA...*North Dakota State* inducted former middle linebackers **Stu Helgason and Steve Garske...** **Robert Jackson** and **John Randle**, *Trinity Valley Community College*.

*In memory of...*Monte Clark, former USC offensive lineman, age 72... George Crumbley, founder of the Peach Bowl/Chick-Fil-A Bowl, age 86...Ed Sherman, who served as head coach and athletics director at Muskingum (Ohio) for 22 years; the first Division III coach to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

*Worth Noting...*Syracuse is naming the field in the Carrier Dome "**Ernie Davis Legends Field**"... Notre Dame unveiled a bronze statue of College Football Hall of Fame coach **Knute Rockne...****Williams (Mass.)** played its 1,000th game (126 years: 610-343-47 .634) Sept. 26, beating Colby 23-19.

If any IFRA member is aware of players or coaches or accomplishments, please send them to Tex Noel.
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## **PRELIMINARY COLLEGE RUGBY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 1871/72-1909/10**

### **By Mel Smith**

This article is a first attempt to list college champions playing in the early seasons of the Carrying Game/Rugby up through the 1909/10 Season.

The carrying game of foot-ball became known as the Boston rules game in the local newspapers of Boston during 1872. Harvard played the first rugby union game with McGill in 1874. But Harvard and Tufts began to put in changes to the rugby code almost immediately.

Mention of early American rugby changes can be found in the article, 'The Development of the American Scrimmage System', Professional Football Researchers Ass'n, by Ian Speers, Vol. 24, 2002.

Independent rugby union clubs began to form in New York City using the original 1871 rugby code after the two, 0-0, tie games were played by Yale and Princeton in 1880 and 1881. The break with the rugby union purists by Walter Camp came when he pushed through the series-of-downs rule in 1882. By 1886, there were more independent clubs playing the original rugby union rules than the old American version of rugby. But it took almost ten years after 1882 for all the colleges to switch from America's version of rugby to the new collegiate game of football using the ball-control, series-of-downs rule. The rugby game never accepts this kind of rule in its game.

An All-University foot-ball team was formed by Harvard during the spring of 1872. The first Harvard Football Club, or varsity, was formed in December 1872. The Harvard Rugby Football Club web pages have 1872 as their first rugby year. The Yale Rugby Football Club web pages have 1875 as their first year.

### **CARRYING GAME**

1871/72 All-Harvard Team (MA)

### **BOSTON RULES GAME**

1872/73 Harvard (MA)

1873/74 Harvard (MA)

1874/75 Harvard (MA);  
Tufts (MA)

### **AMERICAN RUGBY GAME**

1875/76 Harvard (MA)

1876/77 Harvard (MA);  
Yale (CT)

1877/78 Yale (CT)

1878/79 Princeton (NJ)

1879/80 Princeton (NJ)

1880/81 Yale (CT)

1881/82 Princeton (NJ)

1882/83 Michigan (MI)

1883/84 Kendall Green (Gallaudet)  
(DC)

1884/85 U California (CA);  
Colorado College (CO)  
Kendall Green (Gallaudet)  
(DC)

1885/86 Colorado College (CO)

1886/87 Minnesota (MN)

1887/88 Minnesota (MN)

1888/80 Wake Forest (NC)

1889/90 Minnesota (MN)

1890/91 N/A

1891/92 Coe College (IA)

## **RUGBY UNION**

1892/93-1904/05 N/A

### **RUGBY**

1905/06 Yale (CT)

1906/07 Stanford (CA)

1907/08 Stanford (CA)

1908/09 Stanford (CA)

1909/10 U California (CA)

During the 1895/96 season, Walter Camp inaugurates a movement to restart the rugby union game again at Yale. Mr. Camp claimed that nearly every man will play it, whereas only comparatively few play the American rugby football game. Apparently no rugby union games were played.

So far, no rugby games have been found played by the colleges during the 1892/93-1904/05 seasons. But several independent clubs did played rugby union game during this time period. By 1905/06 when Yale played the Eastern Rugby Union team, newspapers were calling the game just rugby.

There were a couple games of rugby played in San Francisco area during February 1906. Many West Coast teams switched to the rugby game for the 1906/07 season. Stanford and California, along with Santa Clara, seemed to be the best teams during this period of rugby up through 1917/18. Then there seems to be another lull in college participation in this game until Harvard and Yale restart again in 1929/30. Participation by the college community probably continues from that time.

Much more collegiate research is also needed in this field of the carrying game. Trying to discern whether a team was playing a continuous running game or a game with downs has been quite difficult,

### **Tom Skillman reports...**

Both Stanford's and San Jose State's first scoring drives were each 5:11 and Stanford's second was 5:09 (guy could have taken two more seconds to get in the end zone)...The times were calculated from start of drive to end of drive by the rules.

Then Stanford scored TDs five different ways:

- a) Kickoff (opening)
- b) Punt return
- c) Interception Return
- d) Rush
- e) Pass

Sort of a "cycle" for scoring TDs except for a fumble return and blocked kick return.

\* \* \*

### **Football Headed to the Troops**

#### **By Randy Snow**

Michigan State University becomes the second team from the Big Ten Conference to make a donation of footballs to Operation Gridiron

especially during the 10-year transition period of 1882-1892.

Hopefully this article tweaks some people's interest to do more research of the rugby game.

\* \* \*

Airlift. MSU joins Purdue University in showing its support for our service men and women serving around the world. Thank you, MSU!

The list of contributors to Operation Gridiron Airlift continues to grow and includes the following;

- The National Football League / Detroit Lions
- The Arena Football League / Grand Rapids Rampage
- The Continental Indoor Football League / Kalamazoo Xplosion
- The Intense Football League / San Angelo Stampede Express
- The United States Air Force Academy (Mountain West Conference)
- Western Michigan University (Mid-American Conference)
- Central Michigan University (Mid-American Conference)
- Michigan State University (Big Ten Conference)

- Purdue University (Big Ten Conference)
- Arizona State University (Pac-10 Conference)
- FlexFab LLC of Hastings, Michigan
- Private donations

### **About Operation Gridiron Airlift**

For our troops serving overseas, the simplest gifts from home are always a welcome sight and very much appreciated. And what is more American than a football? Sometimes, just tossing a football around or organizing a friendly game while deployed overseas can be a welcome diversion, bringing a bit of home to a foreign location. That's why Operation Gridiron Airlift is collecting new and used footballs that are in good condition, and sending them to our troops serving overseas.

The organizer of Operation Gridiron Airlift is retired Master Sergeant Randy Snow of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He spent 21 years serving in the Michigan Air National Guard and retired as a member of the Battle Creek ANG Base in 2002. Since 2003, he has covered the Arena Football League, arenafootball2, the Continental Indoor Football League, United Indoor Football and the Indoor Football League. He has also covered the All American Football

League and the Canadian Football League. His work can be found on [ArenaFan.com](http://ArenaFan.com), [OurSportsCentral.com](http://OurSportsCentral.com) and [AmericanChronicle.com](http://AmericanChronicle.com).

For more information (website: <http://www.OperationGridironAirlift.com/>); or to make a donation, contact Randy at [RandySnow22@yahoo.com](mailto:RandySnow22@yahoo.com).

\* \* \*

### **BULLDOG BITE—Streaking Sewanee**

Georgia's defeat at Sewanee in 1910 was certainly no surprise. The Purple Tigers were amidst a remarkable 55-game unbeaten streak at home, compiling a 51-0-4 record from 1894-1913. On October 10, 1914, Georgia ended Sewanee's historical streak "on the [Cumberland] Mountain." A touchdown by Tom Thrash and a conversion by John Henderson were the difference in a shocking 7-6 Red and Black victory.

Courtesy of IFRA member Patrick Garbin from his book, *About Them Dawgs!* and, specifically, from the section on the 1910 season.

\* \* \*

### **The father of modern football**

**By Walt Sehnert**

**McCook (Neb.) Daily Gazette**

Recently I had the privilege of attending a dinner party in Lincoln, prior to the Nebraska vs New Mexico State football game. One of the people at the party was a nice lady who told me that she had recently retired from teaching. She had been a long-time professor at Harvard University. I confessed that it had always been an ambition of mine to attend an Ivy League football game, preferably Harvard vs Yale, to pay my homage to the place where American football began.

My dinner companion commented that she was not going to the Nebraska game the next day.

Further, she said that she had lived in Boston for some 30 years and had never been to a Harvard football game. She wasn't malicious about the fact. She just didn't care about football.

I thought that this was unusual, and a little sad. It was like saying that she had never visited Boston's Old North Church, where Paul Revere began his historic ride, because she didn't care about horse racing. Football is a very large part of our culture. To be able to witness an Ivy League game, where it all began, would be an opportunity to soak up a bit of our nation's history.

American football descended from two English games, soccer and rugby, and retains parts of each of these sports. The first American football game was played between

two Ivy League schools, Princeton and Rutgers in 1869, but it scarcely resembled the game that we know today. It was played on an enormous field, with no real boundaries. There were more than 25 players on each team. The teams used a round leather ball, much like a soccer ball, but there were no referees, no protection for the body, and no helmets. Most of all, there were few, if any, rules, and gang tackling, gouging, and much cursing and swearing were very much a part of the game.

In the 1870s, players and school officials from Harvard and Yale met in Boston to formalize the rules of the game. From this meeting the Intercollegiate Football Association was born, which changed the game markedly. A much smaller field was instituted, the ball changed from round to oval (though fatter than now), only 15 players to a side were permitted, and referees were added.

In 1880, a player at Yale, Walter Camp, worked with the IPA to consolidate the rules. Teams were standardized to 11 players to a side. Camp introduced the line of scrimmage, and a system of downs and distance (Originally a team got 3 downs to move 5 yards.) He instituted a system of fouls and penalties for those fouls, making the game safer for the players and at the same time made it easier and more satisfying for the spectators. These changes gave Walter Camp the title of "Father of American Football."

Walter Camp's Football became increasingly popular with the public



and more and more schools began to play the game, but it was still a very rough, dangerous game. By the turn of the century there was increasing clamor from around the country to ban the game. These calls reached all the way to the White House and President T. Roosevelt.

In 1905 alone, there had been 18 deaths attributed to football injuries. (This was an astounding number, considering that at that time there were 20 times fewer boys playing football than there were 100 years later, in 2005.)

Roosevelt was a football fan, and saw the game as a way "to build bodies and character, instill a sense of team, and never give up." Ten of Roosevelt's Rough Riders gave their occupations as "Football Player" when they signed up to fight with Roosevelt in Cuba in 1898, during the Spanish-American War. T.R. felt that it was important to do something to save the game and at the same time make it more acceptable to the public.

In 1906, Roosevelt called together representatives of the Big 3 (Harvard, Yale, and Princeton) for a meeting at the White House. From this meeting a Football Rules Committee was formed to oversee American Football. From this meeting the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) was born. The committee put in place rules that would open up the game; (i.e. the forward pass), and would

make the game less dangerous. Initially, mass formations, and gang tackling were outlawed, and equipment requirements (pads, helmets, etc.) were regulated. In the years since there have been almost annual changes in the football rule book, designed to accomplish those goals.

Roosevelt's efforts probably saved American football, and today he is still honored by the NCAA, which has named its highest award, the "Teddy" in his honor. This award is presented annually to "An individual who earned a varsity letter in inter-collegiate athletics and ultimately became a distinguished citizen of national reputation, based on outstanding life accomplishment." Past winners of this prestigious award include four US Presidents, Eisenhower, Ford, Bush Sr., and Ronald Reagan.

The University of Nebraska was a relative late-comer to football, playing its first game in 1892. It is probably fitting that its first coach was Dr. Langdon Frothingham, a transfer from Harvard. Dr. Frothingham might not have known much about football, but he had brought a football with him to Lincoln, and had actually seen a football game. He led the team to a victory over the Omaha YMCA, 10-0, on Thanksgiving Day. The only other game NU played that school year was against Doane College, 18-0, in February 1893. By the next school year Dr. F. was gone and for three years NU did not have a real coach.

For many years, really until after World War II, Professional Football was not big in America. It really was a way that players could continue to play after their college eligibility was used up. Attendance at the games was not great, and salaries were miniscule, as compared with salaries of today's players. Warren Alfson, an All-American linesman on NU's Rose Bowl team signed a pro contract with the old Brooklyn Dodger Football organization for a signing bonus of \$25.

After World War II American football took an amazing upturn in popularity. It seems that football is uniquely suited to television broadcasts. Professional football, and to a certain extent college football as well, owe their great fortunes to TV.

An argument can be made that football in all its forms is out of hand. Professional contracts are often obscenely inflated. Owners of pro teams pressure new stadiums and other concessions from the cities they represent. Colleges are

expanding their stadium seating capacity and building sky boxes, and "favored seating" for their fans, with the requirement of hundreds, even thousands of dollars of "club contributions" annually. At NU one can spend \$75,000 per year (10 years required) for a sky box, or \$500 per year for "Club seating" (plus \$52 per game ticket).

In 1941, a special football train took people to the Rose Bowl to see NU play Stanford. The cost was \$55.73, for train fare from Lincoln, ticket to the game, and hotel accommodations in Pasadena. In 2008 one can pay \$43 to travel half way across the state on the bus for the McCook vs Gering game. Both can be considered good deals.

For a good many people, when the temperatures begin to fall, football fever takes over, and common sense takes a back seat. I would like to continue. There is a good deal more to say, but I must run. The Bo Pelini show is on TV.

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## **BCS Historical Notes**

**By Bo Carter**

With the first BCS poll for the 2009 season being released in Oct. 18, here are some interesting findings:

A total of 41 different schools participated in the first 47 BCS games from the 1998-2008 seasons. Cincinnati (2008 Big East champion) was the most recent newcomer in 2008. Hawai'i and Kansas joined the BCS "fraternity" in post-2007 while Oklahoma (four treks), Florida State and Ohio State (three apiece) lead the way in championship games played.

Florida and LSU (both 2-0) and 2008 and '07 season champs, respectively, are the only two-time winners while Tennessee and Texas (all 1-0) remain as undefeated schools in the championship. There have been nine different champions in the first 11 seasons of the BCS.

Seven of the teams playing on the final Saturday of BCS standings have ended No. 1 in the last survey. Following are final weekend of standings' games for 1-2, outcomes and final standings from 1998-2008:

**1998:** No. 1 Tennessee beat Mississippi State 24-14, finished No. 1

**1998:** No. 2 UCLA lost to Miami (Fla.) 49-45, finished No. 5

**2000:** No. 1 Oklahoma beat Kansas State 27-24, finished No. 1

**2001:** No. 2 Tennessee lost to LSU 31-20, finished No. 6

**2002:** No. 1 Miami beat Virginia Tech 56-45, finished No. 1

**2003:** No. 1 Oklahoma lost to Kansas State 35-7, finished No. 1

**2003:** No. 2 Southern California beat Oregon State 52-28, finished No. 3

**2004:** No. 1 Southern California beat UCLA 29-24, finished No. 1

**2004:** No. 2 Oklahoma beat Colorado 42-3, finished No. 2

**2005:** No. 1 Southern California beat UCLA 66-19, finished No. 1

**2005:** No. 2 Texas beat Colorado 70-3, finished No. 2

**2006:** No. 2 Florida beat Auburn 38-28, finished No. 2

**2007:** No. 1 Missouri lost to Oklahoma 38-17, finished No. 6

**2007:** No. 2 West Virginia lost to Pittsburgh 13-9, finished No. 9

**2008:** No. 1 Alabama lost to Florida 31-20, finished No. 4

**2008:** No. 2 Oklahoma beat Missouri 62-21, finished No. 1

In 2008 a record nine teams still were unblemished when the first standings appeared on Oct. 19 with Texas at No. 1. Previous first week of rankings undefeated numbers included seven in 1998 (UCLA No. 1 in first survey), six in 1999 (Florida State No. 1 initially), five in 2000 (Nebraska No. 1), seven in 2001 (Oklahoma No. 1), seven in 2002 (Oklahoma No. 1), five in 2003 (Oklahoma No. 1), seven in 2004 (Southern California No. 1), seven in 2005 (Southern California No. 1), seven in 2006 (Ohio State No. 1), and six in 2007 (Ohio State No. 1).

*Undefeated teams through third week of BSC standings (**bold: finished regular seasons undefeated**)--*

1998: 5 (Ohio State, **Tennessee**, UCLA, Kansas State, Wisconsin

1999: 4 (**Florida State**, Penn State, **Virginia Tech**, Kansas State)  
2000: 3 (**Oklahoma**, Virginia Tech, TCU)  
2001: 2 (Nebraska, **Miami-Fla.**)  
2002: 3 (Oklahoma, **Ohio State**, **Miami**)  
2003: 2 (Oklahoma, TCU)  
2004: 6 (**Southern California**, **Oklahoma**, **Auburn**, **Utah**, Wisconsin, Boise State)  
2005: 5 (Southern California, Texas, Virginia Tech, Alabama, UCLA)  
2006: 5 (**Ohio State**, Michigan, West Virginia, Louisville, **Boise State**)  
2007: 5 (Ohio State, Boston College, Arizona State, Kansas, **Hawai'i**)  
2008: 6 (Alabama, Ball State, Boise State, Penn State, Texas Tech, **Utah**)

*Championship teams which "ran the table" from 1998-2008 are Tennessee (13-0 in '98), Florida State (12-0 in 1999), Oklahoma (13-0 in 2000), Miami (Fla.) (12-0 in 2001), Ohio State (14-0 in 2002), Southern California (13-0) in 2004, and Texas (13-0 in 2005).*

The Nos. 1-2 teams in the initial BCS yearling standings have played just once in the BCS Championship – USC and Texas in 2005. Five times in the first 10 years of the system, the No. 1 team from the initial

## **Fielding Yost Offered Carlisle Job**

selection week has advanced to the title contest, and Florida State (1999) and Southern California (2004) are the only two first-week No. 1 schools to capture the eventual crown. Every year except 1998 when UCLA and Ohio State opened at 1-2, at least one of the top two first standings' squads has advanced to the BCS Championship.

### **Following are teams which finished undefeated in the final BCS Standings (total of 19 in 11 years)**

1998: **Tennessee, Tulane**  
1999: **Florida State, Virginia Tech**  
2000: **Oklahoma**  
2001: **Miami (Fla.)**  
2002: **Miami (Fla.), Ohio State**  
2003: *None*  
2004: **Auburn, Oklahoma, Southern California, Utah**  
2005: **Southern California, Texas**  
2006: **Boise State, Ohio State**  
2007: **Hawai'i**  
2008: **Boise State, Utah**

*Tennessee ('98 season), Florida State (99), Oklahoma (00), Miami (Fla.) (01), Southern California (04), and Texas (05) later became undefeated BCS titlists.*

\* \* \*

By Tom Benjey  
[www.TomBenjey.WordPress.com](http://www.TomBenjey.WordPress.com)

As always, when I search for information on one topic, I find unrelated, but interesting information on something else. This time I came across an article in the January 14, 1907 edition of *The Lake County Times* about the state of Michigan athletics—the University of Michigan, that is. The article, dateline Ann Arbor, Mich., Jan. 13, discussed the University’s dissatisfaction with conference rule changes. The changes apparently dealt with eligibility and would hurt its track team. “Michigan appears to be hit the hardest by this rule for she will lose five of last year’s conference point winners. These five men took no less than forty-two points. In the last meet, and now that they are out It looks as though Michigan will not shine very brightly in the conference this spring”

“The blow has been dealt and if Michigan remains in the conference to be dictated to by such colleges as Northwestern, Purdue, Minnesota and Indiana, with whom she has, absolutely no athletic relations except during the one-day general conference track meet, there will be

the sorest bunch of collegians in Ann Arbor that ever was collected together.” As the reporter expected, Michigan dropped out of the conference and stayed out for about a decade. However, the article included a tidbit of more interest to me.

“Yost, Fitzpatrick and Baird have ambitions. Fielding Yost draws \$3,500. He had an offer of \$5,000 to go as coach for the Carlisle Indian School and turned it down because things were agreeable here.” The last statement may or may not have been true. Had Carlisle offered Yost the job, the offer had to have been tendered much earlier. Articles were printed in late December, 1906 announcing that Warner was leaving Cornell and returning to Carlisle. Also, Albert Exendine wrote that he had been informed late in the 1906 season that Warner would be returning. This was before Fielding Yost officiated the Carlisle-Vanderbilt game. I wouldn’t say that Yost and Warner feuded but it is clear that Yost did not like Warner.

Whether this incident factored into that any way is not known.

\* \* \*

**Georgia Tech 222-Cumberland 0**

## GAME STATISTICS

Georgia Tech [TEAM STATS]  
Cumberland

29-  
501/17.3.....**RUSHING**.....  
.....34 (m42)  
0-0-  
0\*.....**PASSING**.....  
.....2-15-6  
9-288/32.0.....**PUNT**  
**RETURNS**.....0-0  
5-220/44.0.....**KICKOFF**  
**RETURNS**.....28-208/7.4  
3-23/7.7.....**FUMBLE**  
**RETURNS**.....0-0  
0.....**FUMBLES**.....  
.....8  
6-147.....**INTERCEPTION**  
**RETURNS**.....0-0  
0-  
0.....**PUNTING**.....  
.....11-264/24.0  
20.....**1<sup>st</sup>**  
**DOWN**.....0  
32.....**TOUCHDOWNS**.....  
.....0  
30-32.....**EXTRA**  
**POINTS**.....0

### Quarter Scores:

Cumberland 0 0 0 0—0  
Georgia Tech 63-63-54-42—222

### Season Stats:

Cumberland 0-3-0 0-378  
Georgia Tech 8-0-1 421-141

### Officials:

Ellis (of West Points), referee;  
Lewis, (of Virginia), umpire and  
Pitts, (of Auburn) head linesman.

**Attendance:** 1000....**Date:** Oct.  
7, 1916...**Coin toss:** won by  
Georgia Tech, defended the North  
Goal

### ➤ Georgia Tech's Individual Scoring:

*Rushing TDs* Strupper 6; Spence 3  
Griffin, Preas, and Senter 2  
Glover, Fellers, Carpenter, Alexander, 1  
*Kick-off Returns for TDs*  
Spence 1

*Interceptions Returns for TDs*  
Fellers 2, Guill, Senter and Spence, 1

*Fumbles Returns for TDs*  
Guill and Spence, 1

*Extra Points*  
Preas 18—all in the first half  
Spence 5, Strupper 1

### • Statistical Leaders:

*Rushing*—GT Everett Strupper, 8-165;  
Cumberland 0 with positive yards.

*Punt Returns for TDs*  
Strupper, and Fellers, 2  
Shaver 1

*Passing*—**GT** 0-0-0 0; **Cumberland** Leon McDonald, 2-11-4 14.

*Receiving*—**GT** 0; **Cumberland** George Murphy, 1-10 and Charlie Warwick, 1-4.

*Returns*—**GT (PR)** Strupper, 2-100; *(KO)* Six Carpenter, 2-10; *(INT)* Stan Fellers 2-57; Jim Senter, 2-45; *(FUMBLE RETURNS)* Guill, 1-10; Tommy Spence 1-10 and Senter 1-3.

**Cumberland:** (KOR) George Murphy 14-108.

*PUNTS:* **GT** 0. **Cumberland.** McDonald 10-254, 25.4.

**Cumberland** (0-PR, INT and Fumbles).

\* \* \*

- ❖ Pacific (Oregon) plans to reinstate football beginning in 2010, following university trustees' approval of the program.

The school dropped the program in 1991, 99 years after the school's first football contest.

\* \* \*

## Losses by Top 10 Teams

**By Walter Seaberg**

Over the past three seasons (2006-07-08) there have been 39 games

lost by Top 10 ranked teams to unranked teams.

DATE	AP Rank AP Rank	Team Team	Score Score
9/16/2006	NR 9	Clemson Florida State	27 20
10/7/2006	NR 2	Arkansas Auburn	27 10
10/26/2006	10 NR	Clemson Virginia Tech	7 24
10/28/2006	3 NR	USC Oregon State	31 33
11/11/2006	8 NR	California Arizona	20 24
11/11/2006	NR 5	Georgia Auburn	37 15
11/11/2006	4 NR	Texas Kansas State	42 45
11/18/2006	7 NR	Rutgers Cincinnati	11 30
11/25/2006	NR 7	South Florida West Virginia	24 19
12/2/2006	2 NR	USC UCLA	9 13
9/1/2007	NR 5	Appalachian State Michigan	34 32
9/15/2007	9 NR	Louisville Kentucky	34 40
9/22/2007	10 NR	Penn State Michigan	9 14
9/29/2007	NR 4	Auburn Florida	20 17
9/29/2007	NR 7	Kansas State Texas	41 21
9/29/2007	NR 10	Maryland Rutgers	34 24
9/29/2007	3 NR	Oklahoma Colorado	24 27
10/6/2007	NR 2	Stanford USC	24 23
10/6/2007	5 NR	Wisconsin Illinois	26 31
10/13/2007	NR 2	Oregon State California	31 28
10/18/2007	2 NR	South Florida Rutgers	27 30

10/20/2007	10 NR	California UCLA	21 30
10/20/2007	NR 6	Vanderbilt South Carolina	17 6
11/3/2007	NR 2	Florida State Boston College	27 17
11/10/2007	8 NR	Boston College Maryland	35 42
11/10/2007	NR 1	Illinois Ohio State	28 21
11/15/2007	2 NR	Oregon Arizona	24 34
11/17/2007	3 NR	Oklahoma Texas Tech	27 34
11/23/2007	NR 1	Arkansas LSU	50 48
11/24/2007	9 NR	Oregon UCLA	0 16
12/1/2007	NR 2	Pittsburgh West Virginia	13 9
1/1/2008	9 NR	Florida Michigan	35 41
9/6/2008	8 NR	West Virginia East Carolina	3 24
9/25/2008	1 NR	USC Oregon State	21 27
9/27/2008	NR 4	Mississippi Florida	31 30
9/27/2008	9 NR	Wisconsin Michigan	25 27
10/2/2008	NR 10	Pittsburgh South Florida	26 21
10/16/2008	9 NR	Brigham Young Texas Christian	7 32
11/8/2008	3 NR	Penn State Iowa	23 24

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